

HOOVER, HERBERT

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Speeches Honoring Abraham Lincoln

Herbert Hoover

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LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS BY HERBERT HOOVER

FEBRUARY 12, 1935

No one could fail to attend in these days any Republican meeting given in honor to Abraham Lincoln, for Lincoln was in himself the highest expression of the whole epic of American life; his individuality and his self-reliance, his courage, his patience, his tolerance, and his intellectual honesty have been the living inspiration of three generations of people, and they are and should continue to be the inspiration of America, and especially in this period.

These are times of difficulty, as trying, if not more trying in some respects than that which confronted our country since Lincoln's times. It is indeed a period of grave difficulty for all of our people--the aftermath of war, the adaptations necessary because of the great surge of scientific discovery, the abuses which have crept into our economic system, the world-wide depression, the development of new social systems in foreign countries, have all tended to confuse our thinking; and from this travail, fear has come to dominate the mind of the world, and from all these dislocations, there is everywhere and in every country a yearning and a striving to find individual and national security.

Herein lies the high purpose of meetings such as this, which recall the character and the principles applied and expounded by Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was a great liberal. He believed passionately that an American should be master of the State and not the pawns of the State. He believed the great

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fundamental spiritual truth had been revealed to humanity in the conception of personal liberty as the basis of organized society. He believed it was only through the release of the human spirit that human happiness and human progress were possible. Lincoln believed that while changes were inevitable to meet the shifting scenes, the problems of the day and those changes should be in method and not in principle.

He held the abiding spiritual truth that all individual and national security must rest upon the orderly processes of constitutional self-government. In his own words, a majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations is the only true sovereign of a free people.

And thus his faith was builded upon the solid foundations of freedom of the human spirit that had been America's translation into government. And herein lies our great national touchstone. Whatever violates, whatever infringes or abrogates the fundamental American liberty, violates the life principle of America as a nation.

Thus, Lincoln would judge and he would express in illuminating phrase were he with us this night. I thank you.

HERBERT HOOVER

May 31, 1935

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Murtry:

In response to your request
I am enclosing a typewritten copy
of the address Mr. Hoover delivered
on February 12, 1935.

Yours sincerely,

Paul A. Dixon
Secretary

Enclosure

